

*HAK, Leavitt - Robert assassinated - Soviet
Mideast policy*

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RNR133

MIDEAST-JOBERT

BY DAVID LAWDAY

PARIS, OCT. 17, REUTER - FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER MICHEL JOBERT TODAY BITTERLY ASSAILED THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION FOR FEEDING THE WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND SAID THEY WERE CAPABLE OF HALTING THE CONFLICT IF THEY WISHED.

IN A STORMY DEBATE IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, JOBERT URGED THE TWO SUPER-POWERS TO STOP THE WAR "BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE AND THE CONSEQUENCES BECOME INTOLERABLE."

AFTER DEPICTING ISRAEL AS THE COUNTRY WHICH HAD CONSISTENTLY STOOD IN THE WAY OF MIDDLE EAST PEACE SOLUTIONS, HE TURNED ON THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION FOR THEIR BIG ARMS SUPPLY OPERATIONS.

SOVIET PARTY LEADER LEONID BREZHNEV AND U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER CAME UNDER PERSONAL FIRE FROM THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER, A CLOSE CONFIDANT OF PRESIDENT GEORGES POMPIDOU.

"WE SEE MR. BREZHNEV, THE APOSTLE OF DETENTE, AND DR. KISSINGER, NOW A NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER, SHAKING HANDS WHILE SENDING THOUSANDS OF TONS OF ARMS BY AIR," JOBERT SAID.

MORE MWB/BC1444

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MIDEAST - JOBERT 2 PARIS :

"IF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES WANT TO STOP THE CONFLICT BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE AND THE CONSEQUENCES BECOME INTOLERABLE, THEY CAN DO SO," HE DECLARED.

JOBERT NOTED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD INTERVENED TO STOP THE 1956 ANGLO-FRENCH SUEZ EXPEDITION AND SAID HE SAW NO REASON WHY IT COULD NOT STEP IN TO STOP THE FIGHTING THIS TIME.

THE DEBATE STEMMED FROM OPPOSITION ACCUSATIONS THAT THE POMPIDOU GOVERNMENT WAS TAKING THE ARAB SIDE IN THE WAR. WHILE JOBERT DID NOT ACCEPT THE CHARGE, HE MOVED COOLY THROUGH A BARRAGE OF SHOUTS AND INTERRUPTIONS FROM HOSTILE DEPUTIES WITH A SPEECH CASTING DOUBT ON ISRAEL'S DESIRE FOR PEACE.

HE FIRMLY REJECTED A CHARGE THAT FRANCE'S POSITION COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE GENOCIDE OF THE ISRAELI PEOPLE.

"ISRAEL WILL NOT DISAPPEAR," HE DECLARED. "ISRAEL IS NOT THREATENED BY FRANCE WITH THE CRIME OF GENOCIDE."

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MIDEAST - JOBERT 3 PARIS

JOBERT PLEDGED THAT FRANCE WOULD PRESS ITS EFFORTS TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE WAR IN COMPANY WITH ITS EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET PARTNERS, ESPECIALLY BRITAIN, ITS UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL COLLEAGUE.

COUNTERING ISRAELI ALLEGATIONS THAT FRENCH-BUILT MIRAGE JETS PRESUMABLY BELONGING TO LIBYA HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN IN THE FIGHTING, JOBERT SAID BOTH LIBYA AND EGYPT HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE LIBYAN MIRAGES HAD NOT BEEN USED.

NEITHER WERE ANY STATIONED IN EGYPT IN VIOLATION OF THE FRNACO-LIBYAN SALES CONTRACT, HE SAID.

FRANCE WOULD BACK DOWN AND CHANGE ITS POSITION IF THE ARAB ASSURANCES WERE PROVED TO BE UNTRUE, HE SAID.

THERE WAS A SHARP CLASH BETWEEN JOBERT AND OPPOSITION RADICAL PARTY LEADER M. JEAN-JACQUES SERVAN-SCHREIBER, WHOSE WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE EXPRESS PUBLISHED A CARTOON SHOWING THE FOREIGN MINISTER TRAMPLING THE ISRAELI FLAG IN ARAB SLIPPERS.

JOBERT CALLED THE CARTOON SHAMEFUL AND SERVAN-SCHREIBER REBUTTED THE ATTACK AS AN UNJUSTIFIED THREAT TO PRESS FREEDOM. REUTER WB/BC1450

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